

**CHARLOTTE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
TOWN HALL
JANUARY 14, 2014**

APPROVED

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS: Charles Russell, Chair; Lane Morrison, Ellie Russell, Winslow Ladue. John Owen.

ADMINISTRATION: Dean Bloch, Town Administrator.

OTHERS: Mary Mead, David Miskell, David Nichols, Patrice Machavern, Joanna Cummings, Ed Cafferty, Stephen Brooks, Claudia Mucklow, Hugh Lewis Jr, Kate Lampton, Bonnie Christie, John Hammer, Charlotte News; and others.

ITEMS TAKEN UP:

- **Budget work-session – action item**
- **Warning for Town Meeting – action item**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Russell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

The Selectboard members signed the Richard Tenney/Tenney Enterprises liquor and tobacco license renewals; the Roland's Place Inc, restaurant/bar license renewal; and the PBM Acquisition, LLC/Point Bay Marina liquor license renewal applications as approved at the 01/13/2014 Selectboard meeting.

BUDGET WORK-SESSION

Mr. Russell reviewed that Land Maintenance, page 12 of the draft budget, did include \$2,400 for the Charlotte Berry ball field and \$2,000 for the Town Green project, for a total of \$20,000, explained Mr. Russell.

There was discussion regarding the following line items:

- Page 3, Bridge Grant - increased for a total of \$66,058.
- Page 3, line item 100-281 – correct the heading to read “Court Fines”.
- Page 4, Highway funds - \$150,000 was transferred into the fund for the covered bridge projects.
- Page 11, Highways, Bridge Reconstruction - changed to \$283,100.
- Page 4, Total Revenues - changed to \$1,624,941.
- Page 9, Employee Benefits, Health Insurance – there was \$150,000 in the Town account that would be carried forward.
- Page 14, Annual Requests - Camp Ta-Kum-Ta was zeroed out.
- Page 16, Miscellaneous, Flea Market – changed to \$300; Street Lights Electric – changed to \$1,500.
- Page 17, Miscellaneous, Museum Electricity – changed to \$300; Miscellaneous Expenses – zeroed out; Traffic Enforcement – added \$30,000.
- Page 18, Total All funds - \$3,282,004.

Ms. Mead pointed out that the bridge funds and grants should not appear in the Highway Department budget. There should be a line item in the Selectboard's budget for the bridges, said Ms. Mead. Mr. Lewis explained that Leslie signed off all bills/invoices received by the Highway Department. She didn't receive any of the bridge invoices, which created an overage of \$30,000 this year. Those funds should not appear in the Highway budget, said Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Russell suggested creating a Bridges sub-category that would be separated between Highway and Town Lands.

Ms. Mead asked the Selectboard why her salaries for Town Clerk and Town Treasurer were combined under the Town Clerk heading. The two positions were separately elected offices and should not be combined in one Town Clerk line item. As per state statutes the Town Treasurer gets paid separately. She understood that her hours were increased to 40 hours per week from 35 hours. However, she wanted to be treated to the same salary increase as the Library Director since she does several jobs for the Town, stated Ms. Mead.

Mr. Mack spoke in support of an increased salary for Ms. Mead. She was the 'go-to' person for answers, stated Mr. Mack.

Mr. Morrison said he had questions related to personnel issues and suggested discussing those issues in Executive Session.

MOTION by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and salary matters where premature knowledge would place the Town at a disadvantage.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The Selectboard entered Executive Session at 8:04 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Ms. Russell, to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

Executive Session was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Mr. Russell reported that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Mr. Ladue asked if the three funding requests for invasive species control were combined. UVM recently presented a talk on invasive species and their effects on the environment. The committees should add why removal of invasive species was good into the context of their funding requests, suggested Mr. Ladue. Ms. Cummings said that there was \$1,000 included in the Town Lands line item for invasive species planning, which would address those issues.

WARNING FOR TOWN MEETING 2014

Mr. Russell briefly reviewed historical tax rates over a period of years as shown in a table from the 2013 Town Report. For FY2014-2015 the tax rate was calculated at \$0.1757, which would be warned as an article for the 2014 Town Meeting at the 01/27/2014 Selectboard meeting, said Mr. Russell.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Russell reviewed an e-mail from CVFRS, dated 01/14/2014, regarding the new ambulance cost and delivery. Fire and Rescue would purchase snow tires and rims at an estimated cost of \$500 per tire out of Special Funds, which the Town would reimburse to CVFRS. If the snow tires/rims cost \$3,400 then that would cancel out the \$3,400 rebate. If there was anything left from the rebate that would come to the Town, said Mr. Russell.

Ms. Machavern explained the cost of procuring the vehicle and a cost of \$800 for squad members to travel to pick up the ambulance to save on delivery charges. It could take up to three months to receive the rebate, said Ms. Machavern.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Owen, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Kathlyn L. Furr, Recording Secretary.